

# Great Books for Sixth Grade Readers at the Pleasanton Public Library

Compiled by the Pleasanton Library  
Children's Staff



Books are shelved in  
*Children's Fiction or  
Children's Young Teen Fiction*  
by author's last name  
and/or  
*Children's Paperbacks or  
Children's Young Teen Paperbacks*  
by first letter of author's last name  
(unless otherwise noted).

Please ask at the Children's Desk  
if you need help.

## The Strange Case of Origami Yoda

by Tom Angleberger

(141 p) *Audiobook available* — *Origami Yoda series*



Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. *Includes instructions for making Origami Yoda.*

## The Peculiar

by Stefan Buchmann

(376 p)  
After Humans win the faery wars in England, a half-human, half-faery child, scorned by both races, finds himself at the center of a web of intrigue and danger when he is stalked by a sinister faery.



## Almost Home

by Joan Bauer

(264 p)  
Sixth-grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness. With the help of a rescue dog, Shush; a foster family, a supportive teacher, a love of poetry, and her own grace and good humor, Sugar comes to understand that while she can't control the hand life deals her, she can control how she responds.



## Nick of Time

by Ted Bell

(434 p) *Audiobook available*



*Nick McIver Time Adventure series*

A wondrous tale of time travel, adventure, and riches. The setting is England, 1939, on the eve of World War II. Nick and his younger sister, Kate, live in a lighthouse on the smallest of the Channel Islands and come to the aid of their father who is a spy for England.

## Cosmic

by Frank Cottrell Boyce



(313 p) (J Young Teen)  
Liam is a twelve-year-old who looks like he's about thirty. On the first day of school he is mistaken for a teacher and then he cons his way onto the first spaceship to take civilians into space. It is a special flight for a group of kids and an

adult chaperone, and Liam is going as the adult chaperone.

## Gideon the Cutpurse or The Time Travelers

by Linda Buckley-Archer

(404 p) *Audiobook available* — *Gideon trilogy*



Ignored by his father and sent to Derbyshire for the weekend, twelve-year-old Peter and his new friend, Kate, are accidentally transported back in time to 1763 England where they are befriended by a reformed cutpurse.

## The Governor's Dog is Missing

by Sneed B. Collard III

(174 p) *Slate Stephens Mysteries series*  
Slate Stephens and Daphne McSweeney are trying to find Cat, the missing dog of the Governor of Montana.



## Elijah of Buxton

by Christopher Paul Curtis



(341 p) *Audiobook available*  
In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice to the lying preacher who has stolen money that was meant to buy a family's freedom.

## The Magician's Elephant

by Kate DiCamillo



(201 p)  
When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day and she tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures as he desperately tries to find her.

## The Porcupine Year

by Louis Erdrich

(244 p) *Audiobook available*

*Birchbark House series*  
In 1852, forced by the United States government to leave their beloved Island of the Golden Breasted Woodpecker, fourteen-year-old Omokayas and her Ojibwe family travel in search of a new home.



## Darwen Arkwright and the Peregrine Pact

by A.J. Hartley

(438 p) *Darwen Arkwright series*

After spending his whole life in a tiny town in England, Eleven-year-old Darwen Arkwright is forced to move to Atlanta, Georgia to live with his Aunt. He knows things will be different, but what he finds there is beyond his wildest imaginings! He discovers an enchanting, but dangerous world within the old mirror hanging in his closet.



## Dead End in Norvelt

by Jack Gantos (341 p)

In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.



**This list represents a small selection of  
fiction that appeals to sixth graders.  
This list is not intended to limit a child's  
reading, for there is no "perfect"  
sixth grade book.**

Pleasanton Public Library  
Children's Services  
400 Old Bernal Ave.  
Pleasanton, California 94566

(925) 931-3400

Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.- 9 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m.- 5 p.m.



8/2013



**The Last Musketeer** by Stuart Gibbs



(219 p) *Last Musketeer series*  
In Paris with his parents to sell family heirlooms, fourteen-year-old Greg Rich suddenly finds himself four hundred years in the past, and is aided by boys who will one day be known as “The Three Musketeers.”

**Mission Unstoppable** by Dan Gutman

(293 p) *Genius Files series*  
On a cross-country vacation with their parents, twins Coke and Pepsi, soon to be thirteen, fend off strange assassins as they try to come to terms with their being part of a top-secret government organization known as The Genius Files.

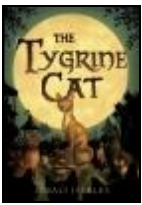


**Scat** by Carl Hiaasen

(371 p) *Audiobook available*  
Nick and his friend, Marta, decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.



**The Tygrine Cat** by Inbali Iserles



(242 p)  
Lost and alone, Mati seeks acceptance from a pack of feral cats at Cressida Lock, but in order to defeat the assassin on his trail, Mati must unlock the secret of his true identity and learn to harness an ancient and deadly feline power.

**Alabama Moon** by Watt Key

(294 p) *Audiobook available*  
After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon leaves their forest shelter home and is sent to an Alabama institution, becoming entangled in the outside world he has never known and making good friends, a relentless enemy, and finally a new life.



**School Spirit** by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel



(316 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Suddenly Supernatural series*  
Like her mother, a professional medium, Kat has been able to see dead people since turning thirteen, and although they would prefer to be normal, Kat and her best friend come to terms with their own

talents while helping free the spirit of a girl trapped at their middle school.

**Schooled** by Gordon Korman

(208 p) *Audiobook available*  
Cap Anderson lives on a farm commune, but after his grandmother’s accident he is sent to a local middle school where his weirdness makes him a target for the school bully.



**Ungifted** by Gordon Korman

(280 p) *Audiobook available*  
Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.



**The Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls**

by Clare LeGrand (355 p)  
Practically-perfect twelve-year-old Victoria Wright must lie, sneak, and break the rules when her investigation of the disappearance of her best — and only — friend, Lawrence, reveals dark secrets in her town and the orphanage run by the reclusive Mrs. Cavendish.



**The Sixty-Eight Rooms** by Marianne Malone

(274 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Sixty Eight Rooms Adventure series*  
Ruthie thinks nothing exciting will ever happen to her until her sixth-grade class visits the Art Institute of Chicago, where she and her best friend Jack discover a magic key that shrinks them so they are able to explore the Thorne Rooms — the collection of sixty-eight rooms from various time periods and places — and discover their secrets.



**Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life**

by Wendy Mass  
(289 p) *Audiobook available*  
Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box — set aside by his father before his death five years earlier — that purportedly contains the meaning of life.



**The Unwanteds** by Lisa McMann

(390 p) *Audiobook available* — *The Unwanteds series*  
In a society that purges thirteen-year-olds who are creative, identical twins Aaron and Alex are separated, one to attend University while the other, supposedly eliminated, but finds himself in a wondrous place where youths hone their abilities and learn magic.



**Wonder** by R. J. Palacio

(315 p) *Audiobook available*  
Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.



**Lawn Boy** by Gary Paulsen

(88 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Sequel: Lawn Boy Returns*  
Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.



**A Drowned Maiden’s Hair**

by Laura Amy Schlitz (389 p)  
At the Barbary Asylum for Female Orphans, eleven-year-old Maud is adopted by three spinster sisters moonlighting as mediums who take her home and reveal to her the role she will play in their séances.



**The Case of the Missing Marquess**

by Nancy Springer  
(216 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Enola Holmes Mystery series*  
Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother.



**The Secret Tree** by Natalie Standiford

(245 p) (J Young Teen)  
After sixth grader Minty discovers a secret tree with a hollow trunk that holds the secrets of everyone in the neighborhood,



Raymond, a new boy drawn to the tree, and Minty start watching their neighbors.

**The Emerald Atlas** by John Stephens

(417 p) (J Young Teen) *Audiobook available*  
*Books of Beginning series*  
Kate, Michael, and Emma have passed from one orphanage to another in the ten years since their parents disappeared to protect them, but now they learn that they have special powers, a prophesied quest to find a magical book, and a fearsome enemy.



**Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree**

by Lauren Tarshis (199 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Sequel: Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell in Love*  
A quirky and utterly logical seventh-grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus discovers some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers.



**Navigating Early**

by Clare Vanderpool  
(306 p) *Audiobook available*  
This is an Odyssey-like adventure of two boys’ incredible quest on the Appalachian Trail where they deal with pirates, buried secrets, and extraordinary encounters.



**PAPERBACK SERIES**

shelved in J Paperbacks by first letter of series title

**Camp Confidential** by various authors

**Candy Apple** by various authors

**Comeback Kids** by Mike Lupica

**Fred Bowen Sports Stories** by Fred Bowen

**Goddess Girls** by Joan Holub and Suzanne Williams

**My Sister the Vampire** by Sienna Mercer

**Orca Sports** by various authors

**Pandora** by Carolyn Hennesy

**Pendragon** by D.J. McHale  
(Shelved in J Young Teen paperbacks)

**Poison Apple** by various authors

**Warriors** by Erin Hunter

**Winning Season** by Rich Wallace